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VIII.—A NOTE ON THE ETYMOLOGY OF INVOLARE.

M. A. Thomas in a critique¹ of Mohl, *Les origines romanes*, under the caption *emblem*, supports the old etymology, Latin *involare*, and continues as follows: "M. Mohl oublie que *involare* > *emblem* se rattache non à *volare* > *voler*, mais à *vola* paume de la main".

M. Thomas would seem to hold still to the etymology of *involare* advanced by Donatus in his commentary on the Aeneid, VI, 199; 336: *Vola dicitur media pars manus, . . . unde et Involare dicimus, quum aliquid furtim vola manus subtrahitur; et Involare rursum, cum violentae manus in aliquem diriguntur, sicuti Terentius ait: Ille facile in oculos Involem venefico.* And again Papias: *Involare, in volam, i. in manum includere, furari.*² Servius, too, on the Aeneid, III, 233 and Georgics II, 88,³ offers the same etymology *in vola includere*.

The etymology *in vola includere* presents this difficulty, that the meaning is not sufficiently vigorous or emphatic to fit with most of the examples for *involare* in the sense of to steal, in which the force of the verb is obviously to make off with. Only one citation which has come to my notice (one from Petronius following) might conceivably fit with the Donatus and Servius interpretation, and that too, may be rendered with the more figurative sense.

The citations for *involare* would seem to show that its origin is plainly *in* and *volare* to fly. Even in its derived meanings to take, to steal, and the like, there seems to be present also some reminiscence of its most likely origin *volare*, to fly down upon, to swoop at. In several instances, the resulting figure is a fine and bold one. The accompanying examples are arranged with a view to showing the transitions in meaning and show equally well, it seems to me, that the verb is nowise connected with *in* and *vola*, in the sense contemplated by Donatus and Servius.

¹ Romania XXIX, 434.

² Ducange, Gloss. Med. et Infim. Latin. III, 893.

³ Facciolati, Lexicon, I, 1025.

Vix me contineam quin involem in capellum. Ter. Em., 859; His editis involat eam vestemque plurifariam diloricat.¹ Apul. Met., 6, 10. And a fine figure from Tacitus, Adeoque improvisi castra involavere, Hist., IV, 33.

Nostra est ipsa possessio in quam homines involaverunt. Cic., de Orat., III, 31, 122. Ancorae involantur de mari. Callistr., Dig., 147, 9, 6. Tum ille paulum ultra digitos in esca iaculatus hamum singulos involat verius quam capit. Plin. Hist. Nat., (ed. Janus, Leip., 1870) 9, 181.

Animos involat cupido eundi. Tac., Ann., I, 49. Remitte pallium mihi meum, quod involasti. Catul. XXV, 6. Ed. Ellis. Hereditatem accepit ex qua plus involavit, quam illi relictum est. Petr., Sat., 43, 5. Nisi si me iudicas anulos buxeos curare quos amicae tuae involasti. Petron., 58, 10 (B).

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¹ The quotations from Apuleius, Pliny and Petronius, I owe to the kindness of my colleague, Professor M. B. Ogle.